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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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Jordan

Arab National Party of Transjordan

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

## Formation of Party

Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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Next Review Date: 2008

1. On 16 May 1947 the following persons met at the home of Isma'il Pasha Balbisi after they had obtained a permit to form a new party, Hizb al-Nahda al-Arabiyyah (Renaissance Party): Hashim Pasha Khayr, Isma'il Pasha Balbisi, Sa'id Pasha Nufti, Subhi Bey Gaylani, and Salim Bikhit.\*
2. On 23 May 1947 a meeting was held by the same men in the home of Sheikh Iithdal Pasha Fayiz and the following executive committee was elected:

- a. Hashim Pasha Khayr (now deceased)
- b. 'Abdullah Shuraytah
- c. Salim Bey Bikhit
- d. Sheikh Iithdal Pasha Fayiz )
- e. Sulayman Pasha Suri )
- f. 'Abdullah Bey Rashidah )
- g. Sabri Pasha Tabba' )
- h. Isma'il Pasha Balbisi )
- i. 'Ali Bey Nabulsi )
- j. Sheikh Muhammad Munawwar Hadid )
- k. Sheikh Muhammad Madi )
- l. Jawdat Sha'shah )
- m. Ahmad Hamad )
- n. Ahmad Husayn )
- o. Wasfi Mirza )

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer

Members Document No. 8

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DDA Memo. # App. 77

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Date: 23 MAY 1978 By: 015

3. On 25 May 1947, at an open meeting held at the al-Bakra'a Cinema in Amman, the party officially was launched.

## Program

4. The present aims of the al-Nahda Party are said by source to be the following:
  - a. To cooperate with King 'Abdullah, giving him a free hand in both domestic and foreign policies.
  - b. To gain control of both houses of Parliament.

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- c. To oppose anti-'Abdullah groups.
- d. To work for the annexation of Arab Palestine to Transjordan.
- e. To propagandize for the Greater Syria scheme.
- f. To work for a better understanding between Iraq and Transjordan.

Finances

5. The Party's finances are derived from dues and from contributions by wealthy members. Source states that King 'Abdullah has contributed £ 50,000.
6. The funds of the Party are spent chiefly on pro-'Abdullah and Greater Syria propaganda. Source states that al-Nahda, "which is substantially responsible for running the Government," will continue to promote the Greater Syria plan, as it was on this condition that the Party was organized originally. Source adds that the Party's propaganda for Greater Syria during 1946 (sic) and 1947 resulted in strained relations between Syria and Transjordan, and that if 'Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, had not intervened, serious damage to the League's solidarity and prestige might have resulted.

Publications

7. Al-Nahda at present publishes two newspapers: al-Wafa'a, edited by Subhi Zayd Gaylani, and al-Jihad, the principal paper of the Party and of the Hashimite family.

Isma'il Pasha Balbisi

8. In the last Transjordanian elections Isma'il Balbisi and Sabri Pasha Tabba' ran unsuccessfully as candidates from Amman against the late Hashim Pasha Khayr and Sa'id Pasha Iufti.\* Following the death of Khayr in August 1948 Balbisi was offered Khayr's seat in Parliament as sixth representative of Amman by King 'Abdullah. Approximately one month later the King bestowed on him the title of Pasha.
9. On 16 December 1948 the Executive Committee of al-Nahda Party named Balbisi to succeed Hashim Pasha Khayr as head of the Party.
10. Balbisi, second son of the late Sulayman Balbisi, was born in 1898 in Amman. He was educated in Turkish schools, and speaks Arabic and Turkish. He now serves as Transjordanian representative of the Shell Oil Company, and through his work for that company is said by source to have built up a fortune, part of which is invested in real estate. Source states that Balbisi was pro-Nazi during World War II, and that he is now a sincere supporter of King 'Abdullah and of Samir Pasha Rifa'i, to whom he is related.
11. Balbisi has two wives. By the first, who is Turkish, he has two sons, aged 19 and 23, who are students at the Saint George School in Amman. By his second wife, who is German, he has three sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom is thirteen. Balbisi is devoted to his German wife,

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He lives in a palace where leading members of the Arab League stay as guests while in Amman. Source states that Balbisi has received many medals from the various Arab states in recognition of his hospitality to Arab statesmen.

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Comment. [REDACTED] Salim Bikhit was expelled from the al-Nahda Party prior to the parliamentary elections (apparently some time during the early stages of the Party's formation) by its President, the Late Hashim Pasha Khayr. Source states that Bikhit's expulsion was effected because he was a follower of Samir Pasha Rifa'i, and that it caused serious dissension within the Party. Sabri Bey Tabba', Iassil Pasha Balbisi, and Wafi Bey Mirza withdrew from the Party and placed their names on a special list in opposition to al-Nahda candidates. They were defeated, however, and al-Nahda candidates won the election. It is evident that at least one of the dissenters has rejoined the Party, as Balbisi is now its President.